



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Inmate Death at FCI Forrest City**

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Wednesday, December 23, 2020, inmate Chester Ray Stitts, Jr., tested positive for COVID-19 at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Forrest City (Medium) in Forrest City, Arkansas, and was immediately placed in medical isolation. On Sunday, January 31, 2021, Mr. Stitts was evaluated by medical staff for nausea and weakness and was subsequently transported to a local hospital for further treatment and evaluation. On Saturday, February 6, 2021, his condition worsened and he was placed on a ventilator. On Tuesday, February 9, 2021, Mr. Stitts, who had pre-existing medical conditions which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by hospital staff.

Mr. Stitts was a 55-year-old black male who was sentenced in the Eastern District of Texas to a 156-month sentence for Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. He has been in custody at FCI Forrest City (Medium) since January 3, 2018.

FCI Forrest City (Medium) is a medium security facility that currently houses 1,049 male offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at [www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp).

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

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